

**REMARKS**

Claims 1; 3; 4; 8; 12; 13; 15; 18; and 21 have been amended. Claims 11 and 28 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 to 10 and 12 to 28 remain in the application. Of these, claim 1 is the sole independent system claim, and claim 18 is the sole independent method claim.

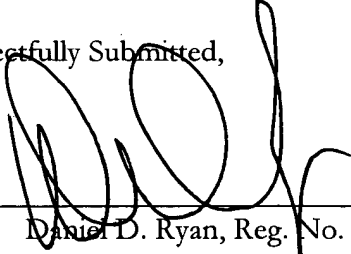
Independent system claim 1 and method claim 18 have been amended to define an ultrasound application that includes a transducer that includes a radiating surface, a coupling media for the transducer, and a well region. The well region surrounds the radiating surface and is located at a higher gravity plane than the radiating surface to collect air bubbles forming in the coupling media. The presence of the well region oriented in this manner minimizes localized skin surface heating effects. Support for this subject matter is found, e.g., on Specification pages 16 and 17.

Neither Talish et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,432,070), nor Peterson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,126,619), nor Winder et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,520,612) teach or suggest an ultrasound applicator that includes a transducer including a radiating surface, a coupling media for the transducer, and a well region surrounding the radiating surface and being located at a higher gravity plane than the radiating surface to collect air bubbles forming in the coupling media to minimize localized skin surface heating effects.

Claims 1 to 10 and 12 to 28 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

By

  
Daniel D. Ryan, Reg. No. 29,243

RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.

Post Office Box 26618

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226

(262) 783 - 1300

4 April 2006

Customer No.: 26308

Enclosures: . . . Amendment Transmittal Letter  
Return Postcard